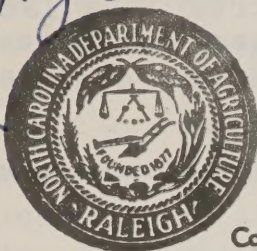


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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

NO. 190

RALEIGH, N. C.

AUGUST 16, 1955

RECORD PRODUCTION INDICATED FOR N. C. FLUE-CURED CROP

COTTON REPORT AS OF AUGUST 1, 1955

The first cotton report of the 1955 season, forecasting a production of 400,000 (500-pounds gross weight) bales was released August 8. This first forecast was based upon August 1 reports from growers, ginner, and others throughout the cotton growing areas of the State. If the forecast materializes, a crop of this size would be 36,000 bales more than the 364,000 bales harvested in 1954 and 92,000 bales less than the 10-year (1944-53) average. This year's acreage in cultivation July 1 was estimated to be 469,000 for harvest, the smallest since records began in 1866.

The 1955 crop got off to a rather slow start, especially in the Coastal counties. In this area the crop did not come up to good stand on account of cool weather and heavy rains. In most such cases, however, the crop was reseeded and good stands obtained. The crop appeared somewhat late until showers set in rather frequently in late June. In recent weeks, with above normal temperatures combined with frequent showers and high applications of fertilizer, the plants have resulted in unusual growth. Plants generally are fruiting up heavily. Boll weevil infestation varies considerably and is rather high in untreated fields.

Lint yield per acre was estimated at 409 pounds, compared with 319 last year and the average of 334 pounds. Prospective yield was the best since 1948 when 440 pounds per acre was produced.

The total United States cotton crop was estimated at 12,728,000 bales, compared with 13,679,000 bales harvested last season and a 10-year average crop

(See Cotton Page 2)

A record 993,875,000 pounds of flue-cured tobacco is estimated, based on reports from growers as of August 1. A crop of this size exceeds the 1954 production by 104,385,000 pounds and will exceed the previous records set in 1951 by 15,500,000 pounds.

Indicated yields per acre are the highest of record for all types. A flue-cured crop of 993,875,000 pounds would result in an average yield of 1,517 pounds per acre. This compares with 1,297 pounds last year and the previous record of 1,341 pounds set in 1950.

Considerable portions of the Type 11 tobacco area suffered a lack of rainfall, particularly in the northern part of the Belt, during early stages of the growing season. For the past month, however, rainfall in this section has been widespread and mostly ample, and the tobacco in this area has shown the greatest improvement since last month of any in the State.

The yield and production forecast for North Carolina by flue-cured types, as of August 1, is as follows:

TYPE 11 (MIDDLE AND OLD BELT): Type 11 production is estimated at 344,250,000 pounds, compared with 297,920,000 last year. The indicated yield per acre of 1,350 pounds compares with 1,120 last year and is only 50 pounds above the previous record-high yield of 1950.

TYPE 12 (EASTERN OR NEW BRIGHT BELT): Type 12 production is estimated at 523,050,000 pounds, for an average yield of 1,650 pounds per acre. The production estimate is a record and exceeds the previous record of 1951 by 12,190,000 pounds. The currently estimated yield of 1,650 pounds exceeds the previous 1954 record yield by 220 pounds.

TYPE 13 (BORDER BELT): Type 13 production is estimated at 126,575,000

(See Tobacco Page 2)

TOBACCO (Continued)

pounds, compared with 113,950,000 last year and is just under the record production of 127,420,000 pounds produced in 1951. A record yield per acre is indicated at 1,525 pounds, exceeding the previous record by 110 pounds established in 1953.

TYPE 31 (BURLEY - LIGHT AIR-CURED): North Carolina burley tobacco crop is estimated at 20,600,000 pounds, for an average yield of 2,000 pounds per acre. This compares with 24,384,000 pounds last year when the yield per acre averaged

1,920 pounds per acre. The 1955 North Carolina burley acreage for harvest is estimated at 10,300 acres, compared with 12,700 acres last year.

COTTON (Continued)

of 12,952,000 bales. Total production was lower due primarily to acreage reductions. However, forecast yields are higher than those harvested last year in all cotton states except in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Details of the report, by states, follow:

COTTON, CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, AUGUST 1, 1955, ALL STATES

STATE	Acres In Cultivation July 1, 1955 Less 1945-54 Average Abandonment <u>1/</u>	August 1 Condition			Lint yield per Harvested Acre			Production <u>3/</u> 500-lb., Gro. Wt. Bales		
		Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955 Indicated Aug. 1 <u>2/</u>	Average 1944-53	1954	1955 Indicated Aug. 1
	(000 ACRES)	(PERCENT)			(POUNDS)			(000 BALES)		
N. C.	469	79	82	89	334	319	409	492	364	400
S. C.	721	76	67	78	312	288	316	692	501	475
Ga.	878	72	62	80	253	286	314	695	612	575
Tenn.	572	77	17	87	360	405	420	565	548	500
Ala.	999	74	71	83	286	298	360	908	728	750
Miss.	1,690	77	84	89	341	384	426	1,693	1,571	1,500
Mo.	382	76	84	87	368	478	484	358	450	385
Ark.	1,438	76	77	91	338	380	421	1,386	1,351	1,260
La.	609	73	77	81	331	399	406	591	572	515
Okla.	795	75	65	86	160	151	208	390	293	345
Tex.	6,734	75	73	79	188	244	278	3,388	3,923	3,900
N. Mex.	180	91	95	90	500	743	627	217	316	235
Ariz.	354	93	97	89	598	1,039	936	481	911	690
Calif.	754	92	97	87	631	806	732	1,048	1,487	1,150
Other States <u>4/</u>	61	78	80	85	283	367	376	47	52	48
U. S.	16,636	77	78	84	279	341	367	12,952	13,679	12,728

1/ From natural causes. 2/ On acres in cultivation July 1 less 1945-54 average abandonment. 3/ Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-lb. bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. 4/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, and Nevada.

N. C. HAS RECORD

PER-ACRE CORN YIELD

On the basis of condition reports from growers, as of August 1, a near record production of corn is indicated. Production is forecast at 73,908,000 bushels. If the indicated production is realized, it will be just under the previous record established in 1950. A 1955 corn crop of 73,908,000 bushels would be 23,124,000 bushels, or 46 percent more than the 50,-784,000 bushels produced in the drought-stricken year 1954.

The average yield per acre for the 1955 crop is a record and is indicated at 36.0 bushels, 3 above the previous record year 1950 and 12 bushels more than in 1954. The State's estimated 2,053,000 acres for harvest is the smallest since 1929 when 1,985,000 acres were harvested.

Prospects are extremely good for a bumper production of corn in North Carolina. Rainfall came at the right time in most counties. Local showers began the last week of June and continued through July. A large number of counties now have sufficient moisture in the ground to finish the crop to maturity. A few counties remain slightly on the drier side and will need some additional rainfall for above average yields. Factors contributing to the record yield per acre are as follows: (1) good stands, (2) 59.5 percent of the crop planted with hybrid seed, (3) sufficient moisture in most areas, and (4) higher than usual applications of fertilizer and nitrates.

SORGHUM GRAIN ACREAGE UP 35 PERCENT

The 1955 sorghum grain crop is estimated at 120,000 acres. This is 34.8 percent above the 1954 acreage of 89,000 acres. Production as of August 1, is estimated to be 3,840,000 bushels, based on an expected average yield per acre of 32 bushels. If this production and yield is realized, it will be 1,615,000 bushels above the 1954 crop and 3,250,000 bushels above the short term average of 590,000 bushels.

TAR HEEL WHEAT CROP SIX PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

The 1955 Tar Heel wheat crop is estimated at 6,966,000 bushels. This is 6 percent below the 1954 crop of 7,436,000 bushels and 3 percent below 1944-53 production.

Tar Heel growers had an estimated average yield per acre of 21.5 bushels, which is only a half bushel below the 1954 yield per acre.

The U. S. wheat crop is estimated at 389,403,000 bushels. This compares with the 1954 crop of 790,737,000 bushels and the 1944-53 average production of 867,-390,000 bushels. The U. S. average yield per acre is estimated at 20.3 bushels.

OATS YIELD DOWN

Based on yield reports from growers as of August 1, the 1955 oats crop is estimated at 18,480,000 bushels. This is about 9.4 percent below 1954 production and 6,746,000 bushels above the 1944-53 average. Harvested acreage was estimated at 528,000 acres compared with 523,000 acres in 1954.

Yield per acre at 35 bushels is 4 bushels below the 1954 yield but is 3.9 bushels above the ten-year average yield.

SOYBEAN YIELD

PROSPECTS GOOD

The indicated yield per acre of soybeans in North Carolina for 1955 as of August 1 is 16.5 bushels. This equals the highest yield on record which was made in 1951 and 1952 and is .5 bushel above the 16.0 bushel per acre yield made in 1954. In the more recent years the yield per acre has gradually been increasing in North Carolina.

Soybeans planted for beans in North Carolina this year is 423,000 acres which is 4 percent below the 441,000 acres for beans in 1954.

North Carolina is expected to have a soybean production in 1955 of 4,702,000 bushels which compares with the 4,720,-000 bushel crop in 1954.

The United States, August 1, indicated yield per acre is 22.8 bushels, with a total production of 420,043,000 bushels.

UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, AUGUST 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	84,675	79,875	80,765	36.4	37.1	43.1	3,080,115	2,964,639	3,477,711
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,942	38,636	33,891	18.0	20.5	20.3	867,390	790,737	689,403
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	67,656	53,712	47,376	17.1	18.1	19.2	1,154,073	969,781	910,958
Oats.....	Bu.	39,556	42,151	42,009	33.4	35.6	38.7	1,323,321	1,499,579	1,625,264
Barley.....	Bu.	10,329	12,994	14,099	25.9	28.5	27.7	266,918	370,126	391,152
Rye.....	Bu.	1,740	1,718	2,081	12.1	13.8	13.7	21,097	23,688	28,448
TOBACCO:										
Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	1,046.7	1,042.2	994.3	1,195	1,261	1,488	1,248,185	1,314,407	1,479,450
Burley.....	Lbs.	454.5	420.9	325.8	1,270	1,385	1,556	576,154	667,172	506,990
All Types.....	Lbs.	1,734.3	1,666.1	1,520.5	1,213	1,342	1,473	2,098,738	2,236,408	2,240,446
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	22,763	19,791	17,096	279	341	367	12,952	13,679	12,728
Sorghums, All.....	Bu.	13,283	17,828	21,400	-	-	-	401,146	356,031	398,715
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	1,967	1,408	1,444	213.1	252.8	276.1	46,951	29,880	35,963
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	496.5	345.5	338.7	94.3	86.5	106.2	-	-	-
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	13,740	18,753	19,860	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	Bu.	11,987	17,037	18,397	19.9	20.1	22.8	238,488	342,795	420,043
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	3,134	1,936	2,034	784	737	937	1,921,095	1,023,070	1,551,095
HAY:										
All.....	Tons	74,328	72,770	74,667	1.38	1.43	1.46	102,199	104,380	109,101
Alfalfa.....	Tons	16,685	22,996	25,082	2.21	2.15	2.12	36,890	49,328	53,097
Clover & Timothy 2/...	Tons	22,097	19,312	18,064	1.41	1.43	1.42	31,115	27,579	25,717
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,343	3,702	4,307	1.04	.82	1.11	6,635	3,052	4,773
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	59	76
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/68,767	4/61,316	4/47,830
Apples, Commercial 3/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/106,402	4/109,512	4/107,389
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/30,950	4/30,434	4/30,863
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2,925	4/2,369	4/3,186
Pecans, All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/141,437	4/90,510	4/70,840

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1; Prod. in Bales.

2/ Excludes Sweet Clover and Lespedeza Hay.

3/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to total production of apples in commercial apple areas of each State.

4/ For some States in certain years production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

NORTH CAROLINA

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, AUGUST 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	2, 204	2, 116	2, 053	28.4	24.0	36.0	62, 641	50, 784	73, 908
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	410	338	324	17.5	22.0	21.5	7, 178	7, 436	6, 966
Oats.....	Bu.	375	523	528	31.1	39.0	35.0	11, 734	20, 397	18, 480
Barley.....	Bu.	38	57	57	28.8	34.0	29.0	1, 108	1, 938	1, 653
Rye.....	Bu.	22	18	19	13.0	15.0	15.0	274	270	285
TOBACCO: All.....	Lbs.	710.2	698.7	665.3	1, 207	1, 308	1, 525	855, 264	913, 874	1, 014, 475
Type 11.....	Lbs.	272.0	266.0	255.0	1, 119	1, 120	1, 350	304, 066	297, 920	344, 250
Type 12.....	Lbs.	341.8	334.0	317.0	1, 256	1, 430	1, 650	428, 016	477, 620	523, 050
Type 13.....	Lbs.	85.2	86.0	83.0	1, 238	1, 325	1, 525	105, 346	113, 950	126, 575
All Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	699.0	686.0	655.0	1, 204	1, 297	1, 517	837, 428	889, 490	993, 875
Type 31, Burley.....	Lbs.	11.2	12.7	10.3	1, 598	1, 920	2, 000	17, 835	24, 384	20, 600
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	711	557	475	334	319	409	492	364	400
Sorghum, All.....	Bu.	40	110	143	-	-	-	8, 508	5, 889	6, 760
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	63	39	40	137	151	169	5, 690	3, 999	4, 950
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	53	43	45	107	93	110	-	-	-
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes...	Bu.	390	441	423	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	255	295	285	14.4	16.0	16.5	3, 735	4, 720	4, 702
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes...	Lbs.	272	178	189	1, 190	1, 465	1, 525	297, 142	251, 980	277, 550
Peanuts, Picked and Threshed...	Lbs.	257	172	182	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hay: All.....	Tons	1, 248	1, 130	1, 099	1.02	.96	1.06	1, 266	1, 081	1, 162
Clover and Timothy 2/.....	Tons	98	96	96	1.12	1.05	1.10	110	101	106
Alfalfa.....	Tons	41	67	74	2.11	1.80	2.15	87	121	159
Lespedeza.....	Tons	513	467	392	1.05	.85	.95	539	397	372
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	62	83
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apples, Commercial 4/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 742	1, 150	3/40
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 220	1, 900	3/40
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	125	2.3
Pecans, All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	2.6	1, 140

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1; Prod. in Bales.
 2/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.
 3/ 1955 crop almost a complete failure because of spring freeze. A few peaches maybe produced but prospective production is too small to warrant a forecast at this time.
 4/ Estimates of commercial crop refer to total production in commercial apple areas.

N. C. PEANUT ACREAGE UP

The N. C. 1955 peanut crop for picking and threshing is estimated at 182,000 acres -- an increase of 10,000 acres over last year, but 29 percent below the 10-year average acreage.

The first estimate of yield per acre was made as of August 1. Based on condition reports from growers as of August 1, the yield per acre is estimated at 1,525 pounds. This compares with 1,465 pounds last year and the 1944-53 average yield per acre of 1,190 pounds.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION UP CONSIDERABLY

An Irish potato crop of 6,760,000 bushels for 1955 is in prospect for the Tar Heel State. If current prospects materialize, the 1955 crop will be about 15 percent above the 5,889,000 bushels produced in 1954. Growers are expected to harvest 169 bushels per acre in 1955 compared to 151 for 1954. The higher yields reflect favorable weather during the maturing season and during the peak harvest season.

SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE UP

Based on reports from growers, as of August 1, a sweet potato crop of 4,950,000 bushels is estimated for North Carolina. This production would be 24 percent above the 1954 crop of 3,999,000 bushels. Current prospects point to an average yield of 110 bushels per acre; if realized, this would be 17 bushels above the yield for 1954 and 3 bushels above average.

Frequent showers improved yield prospects during July, and farmers are expected to harvest 45,000 acres this year compared to 43,000 for 1954.

PECAN PRODUCTION BELOW AVERAGE

The current pecan crop is estimated to be 1,140,000 pounds -- 14 percent above last year's 1,000,000 pound crop but 52 percent below the 1944-53 average. Production of the improved varieties will be about 900,000 pounds, and seedlings about 240,000 pounds.

Damage to trees from the severe freeze on March 25 is primarily responsible for the relatively small 1955 crop.

N. C. APPLE CROP EXTREMELY SHORT

The commercial apple crop in North Carolina on August 1 is estimated at 40,000 bushels. This is approximately 2 percent of the large harvest in 1954 of 1,900,000 bushels. Due to the poor quality of the fruit and the small amount per tree there are indications that a considerable quantity of this crop may not be harvested. The 40,000 bushel crop is the smallest crop since commercial production forecast were started in 1934.

Commercial apple production in the United States is forecast at 107,389,000 bushels as compared to 109,512,000 bushels in 1954.

PASTURES CONDITION GOOD

Pasture feed conditions improved from a month earlier in most counties of North Carolina. Considering conditions on a state basis, pastures are above average. Pasture condition on August 1 averaged 83 percent, compared with 62 percent a year ago and 79 for the 10-year average. A few counties in the northern Piedmont and northern Coastal areas did not receive sufficient rainfall and pastures are only fair to poor.

HAY PROSPECTS

IMPROVE DURING JULY

Based on reports from growers as of August 1, production from 1955 "All Hay" crop is forecast at 1,162,000 tons -- 81,000 tons more than was produced in 1954 but 104,000 tons below the 1944-53 average. The estimated production in tons for Alfalfa is 159,000, Clover-Timothy 106,000, and Lespedeza 372,000.

Alfalfa yield per acre is estimated at 2.15 tons compared with 1.80 in 1954 and 2.11 for the 10-year average. Lespedeza yield per acre is indicated at .95 tons compared with .85 in 1954 and 1.05 for the 10-average. The "All Hay" yield is estimated at 1.06 tons compared with .96 last year and 1.02 for the average.

Hay prospects improved for most "kinds" during July. Heavy rains fell over most of the state, and soil moisture has been adequate to above in most counties. Growing conditions have been very favorable, especially for alfalfa, lespedeza, and soybeans.

JULY WEATHER SUMMARY, 1955

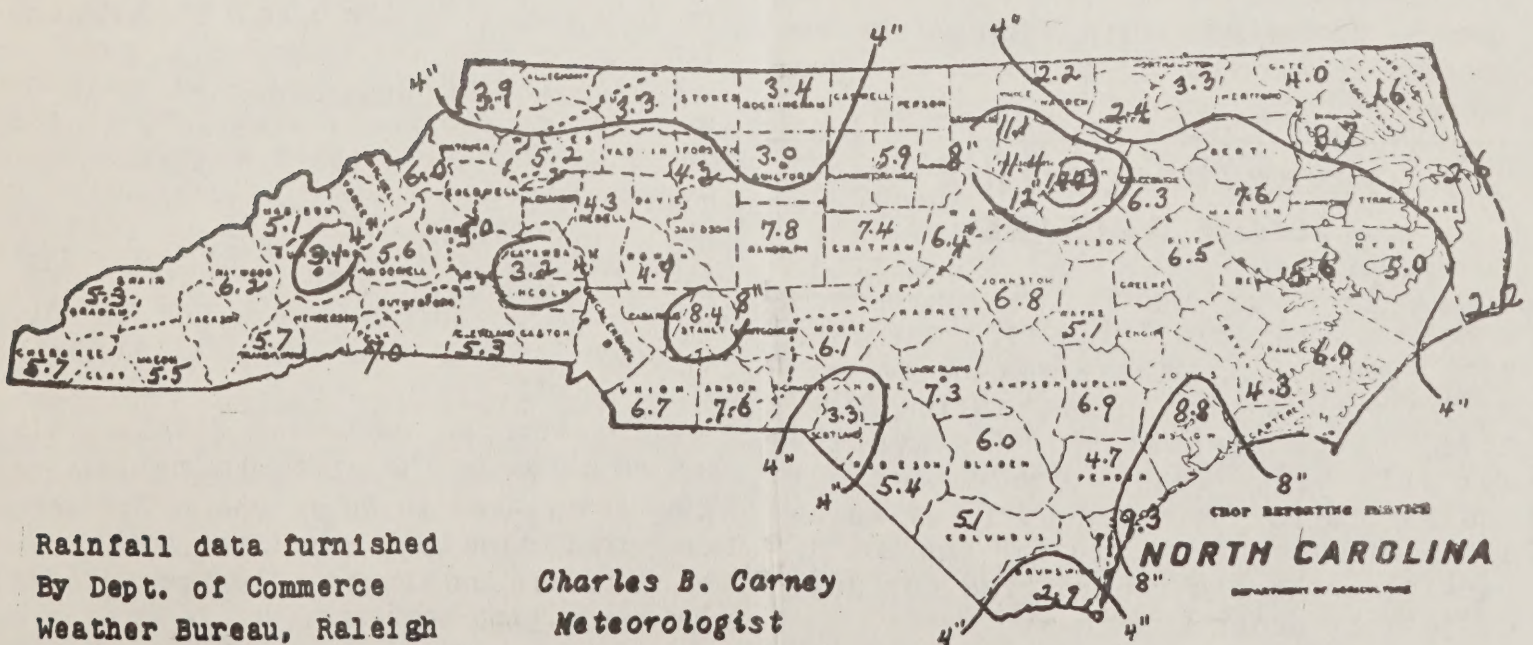
High pressure centered either over the southeastern United States or the adjoining waters of the Ocean or Gulf of Mexico controlled North Carolina weather through most of July. This situation caused typical summer weather over the State, with showers and thunder-showers of variable frequency, depending on the position of the high pressure area. During the period from the 10th to the 15th, a weather front moved slowly down across the State from the north, causing an increase in the shower activity. Immediately following that, a low pressure storm passed eastward to the north of our State, and rather frequent showers continued for a day or so. After that, the widely scattered type of thundershower weather returned for the rest of July.

TEMPERATURES: July weather was warmer than long-term averages, but there was no unusually hot weather. Only one report was received during the month of a temperature as high as 100 degrees. There were an unusual number of days climbing up into the 90's, however, and at no time did the

daily average temperature drop below normal for more than two or three days in a row. Early morning lowest temperatures were near 70 degrees every morning over the greater part of the State, and readings below 60 were unknown except in the mountains. The average temperature over the State for the month was close to two degrees above normal.

PRECIPITATION: Summer rainfall in North Carolina is usually scattered and variable in quantity from place to place. This was especially true during July, when places within the same county reported amounts as far apart as two inches and eleven inches. On the whole, the northeastern corner of the State was the driest, with four inches or less at all reporting stations. Immediately adjoining this area, however, a small strip running from Rocky Mount to Henderson had rainfall totaling over ten inches. Elsewhere in the State, amounts ranged mostly between three and eight inches, and most sections had sufficient rainfall to keep the moisture adequate.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, JULY 1955



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
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EGG PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD FOR JULY

Egg production in North Carolina during July is estimated at 114 million -- a new high for the month and about 8 million above the July 1954 previous record high production of 106 million eggs. The July production represents a decrease of 13 million from the June 1955 production. There was an average of 7,384,000 layers on hand during July; this is the highest monthly average for July since 1950. Production per 100 layers is estimated at 1,547 which is the highest of record for the month, exceeding the old record high for July of 1954 by about 8 percent;

MILK PRODUCTION UP SEASONALLY

Estimated milk production on farms in North Carolina for July totaled 159 million pounds. Production during the month compares with a flow of 152 million pounds during June -- this output represents about a normal seasonal increase. Production during July was exceeded by only the heavy July 1953 and 1954 productions for the month.

There were an estimated 365,000 milk cows on farms in the state during July -- 12,000 fewer than in July 1954. The average production per cow last month was 436 pounds, the highest of record for July since 1949.